



High Country Rural Planning Organization (RPO)

Municipalities and Counties of
Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Mitchell, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yancey

*"Serving North Carolina's High Country with Continuing, Cooperative, and
Comprehensive Transportation Planning"*



Dana Tugman, RTAC Chair

Craig Hughes, LPA Transportation Planner

Richard Canipe, RTCC Chair

HIGH COUNTRY RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

RESOLUTION OPPOSING ANY REVISIONS TO THE NORTH CAROLINA EQUITY FORMULA

WHEREAS, the North Carolina legislature implemented its Transportation Equity Formula as a result of the 1989 Highway Trust Fund Law; and

WHEREAS, the Equity Formula ensures a fair distribution of funding for transportation projects in all areas of the state; and

WHEREAS, a funding formula based on the recommendations outlined in the Metropolitan Mayors Coalition white paper requesting changes to the equity formula would focus funding on areas with high traffic volumes, thereby perpetuating a need to continue to add more capacity to allow for even more traffic to those regions without recognizing the needs of the less urbanized areas; and

WHEREAS, the rural areas of the state need transportation funding to be continued at present levels in order to maintain and improve their transportation networks and to be able to sustain economic viability in these regions; and

WHEREAS, the needs of all regions of the state (rural and metropolitan) need to be addressed; and

WHEREAS, the State Highway Trust Fund is funded by excise taxes on highway motor fuels and by highway user fees from rural and urbanized areas; and

WHEREAS, a modern and well maintained transportation network throughout the state is a key element in the economic development of the state.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the High Country Rural Planning Organization **opposes** reevaluation, revision, or modification of the Equity Formula that would negatively impact or stagnate funding for rural transportation projects.

ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the High Country Rural Planning Organization on the 17th Day of March, 2010.

Dana Tugman, Chair, RTAC
High Country Rural Planning Organization

Craig Hughes, Secretary, RTAC